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For Immediate Release  
March 28, 2006

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## **House passes SAVE the Children**

**LANSING**—A package of bills to help prevent early learning failure and give students the skills they need to succeed both in school and in life passed the Michigan House of Representatives today, said Sen. Nancy Cassis, the key sponsor and coordinator of the SAVE the Children package.

“By providing needed assistance to kindergarteners through third-graders, we will head off more serious academic problems down the road,” said Cassis, R-Nov. “The Northville School program on which this legislation is based has had great success targeting academic problems and providing solutions for them. I am pleased that young students across the state will have access to that same success.”

The key bill in the proposal, SB 329, was sponsored by Cassis. It establishes an Early Intervening Grant Program, administered by the Department of Education. This legislation would allow schools with successful intervention to act as instructional mentors for other school districts interested in setting up their own intervention program. It is targeted at school districts that have special education populations exceeding the state average. School districts with a percentage of pupils reading below grade level would also be eligible.

The bills now return to the Senate, which is expected to concur with the legislation.

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